NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
November 14, 1997

HOLIDAY TEA -- A FAMILY CELEBRATION

The Women's Board cordially invites you and your family to the Holiday Tea on Wednesday, December 3, 1997, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (The Museum will close at 3:00 p.m.) Invitations are available in the Women's Board office and also in the November/December issue of ***In the Field.*** We encourage Museum staff to purchase tickets early as this event is always a sell-out. Ticket prices at the Museum rate are as follows: Adults - $12 each; Children (age 13 and under) - $7 each.

Reminder:

November 28 deadline for many 1997 Purchases

Questions? Call Tom Geary (278)

EXHIBITS

From October 22 - 26, **Michelle C. Miller,** Exhibit Developer, attended the joint conference of The Society for Ethnomusicology and the International Association for the Study of Popular Music at The University of Indiana of Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During this conference she conducted research for a Millennium Project exhibition.

On November 5, **Peter Stevenson,** Exhibit Developer, served on a six-person panel at The University of Chicago titled, "Within and Beyond the Ivory Tower: Non-Academic Career Paths for Graduate Students," sponsored by The University of Chicago Career and Placement Services. Peter talked about his work at The Field Museum and career opportunities in arts and museum administration.

A holiday tradition for 7 years might be coming to an end!

We're looking for a volunteer to take over the task of coordinating the production of the Staff and Volunteer Holiday Cookbook. **Don't let it go extinct!** Elaine Zeiger, with the help of some of her colleagues, has devoted her time each year in order to get the cookbook produced and is now ready for a much-deserved break! This isn't a one-person job. There are people who are willing to help enter recipes onto the computer and to proof. We're all busy people, but maybe someone out there can dedicate some of their time to make the *1997 Cookbook* happen? Proceeds of the sales of the cookbooks are donated to Chicago House and the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Please contact **Mary Anne Rogers** (x272) or **Elaine Zeiger** (x338) if you can help.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, November 11, 1997 was delivered by **Scott Lidgard,** Associate Curator, Fossil Invertebrates, Department of Geology, Field Museum. Scott discussed joint research with Steve Hageman analyzing patterns of bryozoan diversity. They have assembled a data base for more than 22,000 extant and extinct species. Although the group is speciose and accounts for a significant portion of the biomass of the oceans, detailed life history data are unknown for most of the taxa. Initial analyses suggest several ecological conditions that correlate with bryozoan species richness among extant taxa. Bryozoan diversity is greatest in mid to high latitudes, where the sedimentation rate is low, in shallow broad embayments on a narrow continental shelf, and where water surface temperatures are less than 20 degrees Celsius. Most of these features preclude another dominant group of filter feeders, the corals. Bryozoan diversity is also highest on unconsolidated substrates having an ephemeral stability, a feature that remains unexplained. Comparative analysis of ecological parameters of the fossil taxa show strong parallels with the extant taxa. Scott suggested that the strong link between extant bryozoan diversity and ocean surface temperature offers the possibility of using distribution patterns of fossil bryozoans as a proxy for ocean temperature in paloeclimate models.

LOST CART

"Membership" is written on its side. If found, please call **Cynthia Gulley** (x453). It was left at the west door about two weeks ago and has not yet found its way home.

FIELD MUSEUM FAN COMMENTARY

Paul Knappenberger, President of the Adler Planetarium, called **John McCarter** on Monday morning, November 10, to say, "Hats off" to the **Living Together** team. Paul attended the opening on Saturday with family and friends, and said they talked about it all the way home.

Have you heard about

THE AUDIENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE?

What is it?

The Audience Research Initiative (ARI) is a way to help The Field Museum better understand our visitors and to use this information to guide decision-making, ultimately ensuring that our visitors have a great museum experience. It has three primary objectives:

1. Collect and put in a central location existing information about Field Museum visitors, and museum visitors in general. This information comes from visitor studies that we have conducted over the years, as well as other research that has been done around the world.

2. Conduct new research about visitors who come to The Field Museum, the things they like to do, how they learn best, what kinds of questions they have.

3. Set up opportunities, like brown bag luncheons, to talk about what we know about our visitors, and museum visitors in general.

Where is it?

Currently it is located in the Education Department, although it is a project of Museum Affairs. It is headed by Deborah Perry (x740), a museum consultant. She is at The Field Museum on Tuesdays. During the rest of the week she can be reached at her other office: 312/986-1134.

What does it mean for me?

As The Field Museum gets smarter about our visitors, we will be able to create even better experiences for them. You will hear about new information as we learn it; you may be invited to participate in brown bag discussions; you may be asked to help us gather information by talking to visitors.

If you have any questions, please contact **Deborah Perry** (x740).

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

1997 Stanley Field Hall Holiday Decoration Schedule

Thursday, November 13		*Ivan Carlson & Associates will deliver platform to Ernst Toussaint, Maintenance for temporary storage.
Saturday, November 15		Christmas tree set-up by Ernst Toussaint, Maintenance, ext. 228. After decorating, the tree will be placed in the center of Stanley Field Hall.
Monday, November 17	*10am - 4pm*	*Decorations of the Christmas tree by Vince Flower Shop & Interior. The Special Events catering prep room will be used as a temporary staging area for preparing holiday decorations. Wreaths will be stored in the shipping staging area until installation by Frost Lighting. Maintenance will assist Vince Flower Shop with decorating the Christmas tree. Area around the tree will be roped off by Visitor Services. Maintenance will supply poles to support the wreaths.
Tuesday, Nov. 18 Wednesday, Nov. 19 Thursday, Nov. 20	*9am - 5pm* *9am - 3pm* *9am - 3pm*	*Frost Lighting will install lighted swag garland along the 14 columns, with wreaths in between. Additionally, lighted branches will be suspended above both fountains in Stanley Field Hall. The area surrounding the fountains will be roped off, ***one at a time***, covering 25' x 25' of square space. Ropes and poles are needed each day during installation. Engineering is needed to assist Frost Lighting when installing the branches above the fountains.

**Please call Tina Augustus, Public Services, at extension 564, for questions, or to report any problems.*

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

WEB SITE UPDATE

We've added more information to the Museum's web site. Check it out at <http://www.fmnh.org>. Under Museum Stories you will find the first of our "Adventures in the Field" where an interactive map of the world will link you to short features on some of our research scientists. We will be adding stories on the rest of our scientists in the months to come. We have also added our scientists' one page CV's. You can get to them from the departmental staff listings in Collections and Research. The Exhibits section has also been revised with more information on special exhibits. We appreciate your feedback. Technical questions should be directed to Webmaster, **Brad Loetel** (x734), and content questions should be directed to **Lori Breslauer** (x627).

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING & CHANGE

On Thursday, November 6, Curator **John Terrell** (Anthropology) and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Director **Peter Crane** attended a Symposium and Open House at the Northwestern University Biotechnology Laboratory. Crane and Terrell also met with Jim Kaput, Director of the Laboratory; Lydia Villa-Komaroff, Vice President for Research and Professor of Neurology at Northwestern; and Robert S. Decker, Associate Dean for Research at Northwestern University Medical School. The meeting was arranged to discuss how both institutions represented can help develop the 1998 Chicago Workshop on Health and Global Human Genetic Diversity including a subsequent international conference to be held at The Field Museum. The conference would be designed to promote shared understanding and data standards in the exciting new field of anthropology, health, and human molecular genetics.

BATES RETURNS FROM BRAZIL

Assistant Curator **John Bates** (Zoology, Birds) recently returned from a three week trip to northern Brazil. He spent most of his time conducting field research in the state of Amapa, which lies directly north of the mouth of the Amazon. John accompanied Jose Maria Cardoso da Silva of Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi who is conducting an avian inventory of the savanas in this region. Through collaborations with the Museu Goeldi's Bird Division, the Field Museum received 500 bird tissue samples recently collected by Museu Goeldi personnel in eastern Amazonia. This valuable material includes two species of manakins previously unrepresented the world's tissue collections.

Christian Fellowship

Wednesday, November 19, 1997, 12 noon - 1:00 p.m., Classroom I -- Ground Floor

Questions? Call **Sandy Blake** (x854)

FOND FAREWELL

Joyce Matuszewich leaves The Field Museum this Friday after sixteen years of distinguished service. She has held several positions in the Education Department over the years. Most recently, she has been the Museum's director for Visitor Programs -- responsible for festivals, education volunteers, resource centers, gallery programs, Maori House, Pawnee Earth Lodge and more.

Watching Joyce orchestrate the set-up for a major festival brings to mind the famous remark made some years ago by Faith Whittlesey: "Remember," she remarked, "Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards and in high heels."

Joyce -- as she choreographed festival after festival, and holiday weeks and summer family activities, and Maori House events -- did everything Busby Berkeley did, only she did it with the help of dozens of people, not hundreds, and she did it on a relative shoe string.

Joyce is the last person to seek applause, yet she more than deserved a bit of the limelight this week as she leaves to spend time with her husband and community volunteer work.

As many of you know, Joyce is a great fan of the theater. So I know she would appreciate what Ethel Merman had to say about her friend Mary Martin: "She's OK if you like talent."

We're going to miss Joyce's enormous talent, human touch and great, good sense. We all wish her the very best.

Mary Ellen Munley
Director, Education and Outreach

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

Salvatore ("Sam") Ingraffia, a volunteer in Education's Dinosaur Families last summer received the following letter, accompanied by hand-drawn pictures, postcards and pieces of a dinosaur model in a box. -- Submitted by **Patti Stratton**

> Dear Sam,
> Thank you for talking to my mom and me about dinosaurs. I'm sorry you weren't able to be a paleontologist. Just in case you wanted to know my favorite dinosaur is the Velociraptor, my favorite meat eater is the Tyrannosaurus Rex, and my favorite plant eaters are Stegosaurus, Brachiosaurus, and Triceritops [sic]. What's your favorite dinosaur, meat eater and plant eater? Thank you for the "Lost World: Jurassic Park" pin. I wore it the rest of that day. Not that long ago I got a baby T-Rex Giga Pet...